

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7868**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 437

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 11, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** DeKalb Superior Court.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Meeks C

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed - Senate

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. L. Lawson

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

STATE IMPACT	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		64,086	128,171
Net Increase (Decrease)		(64,086)	(128,171)

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

(A) It establishes a second superior court in DeKalb County.

(B) It provides that the initial judge of the DeKalb Superior Court is appointed for a term beginning January 1, 2004.

(C) It eliminates the DeKalb County Small Claims Referee. (The introduced version of this bill was approved by the Commission on Courts.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This new court would begin operation on January 1, 2004. The estimated costs for a 12-month period are listed in the following table.

<b>Cost Components of Judge's Salary</b>		
Salary	Specified in statute	\$90,000
Life Insurance	0.36% of Salary	\$324
Health, Dental, and Vision	Estimated by the State Budget Agency	\$8,291
Social Security	7.65% of salary	\$6,885
Disability Insurance	1.9% of salary estimated by State Budget Agency	\$171
Judges Retirement Fund	35% of Salary	\$31,500
Judicial Center	Includes materials and postage, but not possible staffing	\$1,000
Eliminate small claims referee	Receives \$10,000 from state General Fund	<u>(\$10,000)</u>
<b>Total Cost for New Court:</b>		<b><u>\$128,171</u></b>

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The county may need to hire additional support staff and find space for this new court. By eliminating the small claims referee position, DeKalb County will save \$10,000 per year.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of State Court Administration, Indiana Judicial Conference.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial Courts in DeKalb County.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Mark Goodpaster, 317-232-9852